

Ahupua'a o O'ahu

State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations



Anthony Sang
President
Waimanalo

February 1, 2005

Aulani Ahmad
Vice President
Princess Kaiulani
Estate

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington D. C. 20554

Pikake Palakal
Secretary
Waianae Valley

Paul Richards
Treasurer
Waimanalo

RE: Supporting Comments - Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. - Petition
for Waiver of the Definition of "Study Area," CC Docket No. 96-45

Kamaki Kanahale
Kahu/Parliamentarian
Māhākū

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Ahupua'a O O'ahu, an organization comprised of 8 Hawaiian Home Lands homestead associations on the island of O'ahu, strongly supports the petition for waiver submitted by Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.

Our homestead areas are located in remote rural areas and one of the greatest obstacles to developing this land for homesteads has been the cost of infrastructure. It is essential that Sandwich Isles Communications continue as the Hawaiian Home Lands exclusive telecommunications provider as they have helped turn the tide of years of neglect with no or less than adequate phone service on Hawaiian Home Lands. In addition, the significant capital invested in Hawaiian Home Lands, to date by Sandwich Isles Communications is creating education, healthcare and economic development opportunities for our homestead communities.

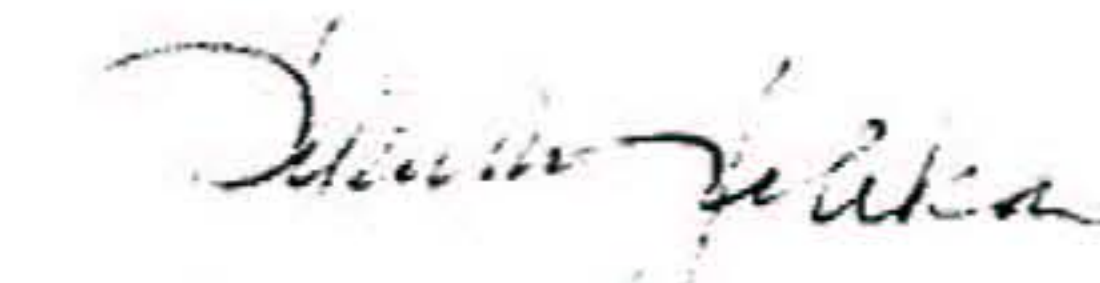
Our communities have a great need for local access to education programs, healthcare services, jobs and other economic opportunities. While we have been successful in having service organizations co-locate in certain communities, the cost to replicate brick and mortar facilities makes it impossible to fund and operate facilities in each community. The only viable solution, today, is the delivery of programs and services via high-speed internet connections. Sandwich Isles Communications is doing this for Hawaiian home Land communities, and the deployment must continue in

order for homestead communities and residents to participate fully in our global community.

We sincerely believe that Sandwich Isles Communications is raising the bar in service availability and quality for all of Hawaiian Home Lands. We commend Sandwich Isles Communications for their commitment as the only rural telephone company in the state of Hawai'i that provides state of the art telecommunications services to Hawaiian Home land beneficiaries. We support their effort in connecting all the Hawaiian Home Lands and support their petition to continue to do so. It is critical to beneficiaries that Sandwich Isles Communications remain our exclusive service provider. It would be a great loss to all of our families who have benefited and will benefit from the type of services that truly meet the needs of Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries throughout our state.

We respectfully submit our support for Sandwich Isles Communications' petition to the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,



Pikake Pelekai
Secretary